

From: Andrew Ness
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 4:02pm
Subject: microsoft settlement

When considering the settlement between the Ashcroft DoJ and Microsoft, the word "sellout" rather than "settlement" comes to mind. This settlement is effectively a reward for predatory behavior, and sets a dangerous precedent for future companies with monopolistic aspirations. If a company manages to corner the market on a particular item, they can expect to be dragged into court by their victims, but as long as they make a large enough soft money contribution to the winning party, they will get off with a settlement so riddled with exceptions that no business practice is affected and all future lawsuits are effectively stifled.

My congratulations, Mr. Gates. You've bought the Department of Justice.
Andrew Ness